Dear colleagues and friends of the veterinary profession,

The summer has gone in the Nordic part of the world and it is now Autumn. Some people find that particular change of seasons depressing. But we have to realise that in the South part of that same world it is spring and summer will come soon!

This sounds a little bit philosophical, but my optimistic character and my own view is that we can certainly be optimistic about WVA.

WVA EXCOM and WVA Council both had very good and fruitful meetings in Tokyo, Japan. I will report separately about these meetings. We met our Japanese colleagues in a very cooperative and friendly atmosphere. It is good to have direct contact with our members. It is also a pleasure to know that China founded a national veterinary association on the 27th October. The Chinese veterinarians would like to cooperate with and join the WVA. More countries in Asia would also like to become members of WVA, but currently in Latin America, lack of financial resources prevents this. According our rules we have to look for solutions.

I had a similar experience during my visit to the third African Veterinary Congress in Yaoundé, Cameroon during the last week of September. The veterinarians of the Cameroon National Veterinary Association organised a great congress with the participation of many African veterinarians. After my presentation about what WVA is and what it can do for veterinarians, the African colleagues showed a great interest in joining WVA. They have small associations in big countries. WVA has to make it possible so that they can join us.

One of my main objectives is to UNITE all veterinarians in the world. I believe in it and I am pleased that the veterinarians
of France have once again decided to become a member of WVA.

Last but certainly not least, I attended the Conference about Veterinary Education in Paris. Please read my address to this important event in this Newsletter.

Dr Tjeerd Jorna
WVA President

WVA Signs Contract with FVE to Host WVA Secretariat

President Tjeerd Jorna signed a contract with Dr Walter Winding, the FVE President on October 15th 2009 for the provision of the WVA secretarial services from the 1st of January 2010 for a period of three years. This will see the move from Copenhagen where the Secretariat has been hosted by the Danish Veterinary Association since 1994.

At the same time, President Jorna also signed a contract with Dr Jim Edwards who will become the WVA Communications Director for the next three years.

From the left: FVE Executive Director Dr Jan Vaarten, WVA Vice-Presidents Dr Duane Landals and Dr Faouzi Kechrid, FVE Deputy Executive Director Dr Nancy De Briyne, FVE President Dr Walter Winding, WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna and WVA Communications Director Dr Jim Edwards. (Photographs by Mrs. Pam Edwards.)
In the last week of August the WVA EXCOM and the WVA COUNCIL had a meeting in Tokyo. I would like to highlight some issues we discussed.

The 2008 accounts were approved. Even without the proceeds of the World Veterinary Congress of Vancouver, WVA had a profit over the year 2008. A remaining anxiety is that 17 members have not yet sent payment for their subscription.

The major discussions centred on the policies of WVA and how to review the policy papers. Vice President Duane Landals, who is responsible for policies, presented a proposal to assemble the policies into categories in order to find out which have to be renewed and to make them visible and clearly identified on the website. All Councilors are involved in the renewing process and we expect to present first drafts in 2010 and to present these renewed policies for adoption in 2011. The policy on Veterinary Education was an example how to work. In advance of the Conference: “Evolving Veterinary Education for a safer world”, the Council discussed and worked out the proposal for the preparing group about Global Veterinary Day-One Competencies. Other parts of the veterinary education policy will follow.

Also, Council accepted the proposal to produce an Education Database of the Veterinary Schools/Faculties of the world on the WVA website and to indicate by what system of accreditation/evaluation approval had been granted. Cooperation in this project will be requested from OIE and FAO.

The WVA Strategic Plan 2010-2015 is at a first draft stage and will need ongoing activity. The President will encourage members to be active in this for their ideas are important.
The WVA 150th Anniversary History Project will be carried out by and in cooperation with the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine. This will lead to a historic manuscript detailing 150 years of WVA being produced in September 2012 and an edition being available for the World Veterinary Congress in 2013 in Prague.

The cooperation with OIE, FAO and WHO was discussed. The theme for next World Veterinary Day will be within the One World – One Health concept. WVA is keen to show the value in cooperation between veterinarians and medical doctors for the benefit of people. The World Veterinary Day is organised together with OIE. For improved cooperation with WHO we need to renew the Collaboration Plan WVA – WHO. The subject of Antimicrobial Resistance is of main importance for WVA together with both WHO and FAO.

An update in the arrangements for the next World Veterinary Congress (WVC) 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, was given by the chairman of the organizing committee Anthony Erasmus. WVA was pleased to be informed about the progress of the WVC Committee.

A main decision of the WVA EXCOM and WVA Council is to organise in 2010 an Extraordinary Presidential Assembly in Paris the Saturday before the OIE general Session [preliminary scheduled 22 May 2011].

Dr Tjeerd Jorna
WVA President

The WVA Council at work in Tokyo
(Photograph by Mr. Bob Stevenson)
Policies, Positions and Discussions

Over the years the World Veterinary Association has developed and circulated a number of formally adopted policies or position statements. These are supported by a variety of discussion papers on various topics relevant to veterinary medicine in many fields. It is an important task for an association like the WVA to provide leadership through this mechanism. Currently all these documents are available on our web site www.worldvet.org.

In order to maintain their usefulness to members, it is essential that all such publications be current, accurate and easily accessed by members and the public.

As Vice President responsible for policy of the WVA, I have initiated a process of review of this material. At the Council meeting in Tokyo this past August, all councilors agreed to individually lead the discussion and review of each of the items we currently have. The objective is to determine if each still meets the criteria to continue to represent the position of WVA. Once they have been reviewed we can start a process of reformatting, republishing, revising or discarding them individually, as necessary.

Part of the objective of the review is to engage a wide range of members in the discussions. This will bring existing policies into greater visibility and will insure that any changes or amendments meet the broad approval of the veterinary profession. It will also help us identify topics that may require a policy and these can be developed for consideration at upcoming Presidents Assemblies.

Along with this review, I will be working with our editor, Dr. Jim Edwards to reorganize these items in an easily retrievable manner on the web site. Currently we are proposing assigning each of them to one of the following categories:

**Policies, Positions and Discussions:**
- Animal Health
- Animal Welfare
- Public/Global Health
- Education
- Professionalism
- Food Safety and Security
- Environmental Health

Please feel free to contact me or any councilor in regards to this project to make our association more valuable to the members and society generally.

Dr. Duane Landals  
Vice President  
World Veterinary Association

New Distance Learning Courses at the Royal Veterinary College

Two new courses are ‘Management of Infectious Disease Outbreaks in Animal Populations’ (new for 2009) and ‘Sustainable Livestock Farming in the Environment’ (shortly to be released for 2010). Outlines for both of these new courses are included in the 2010 prospectus at: http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/prospectus/leaflets/rvc_leaflet.pdf

Our distance learning offering includes two MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Short Course programmes in Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health.

WVA to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary at 2013 World Veterinary Congress in Prague
Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World

Dr. Tjeerd Jorna, President WVA

Excellency, President and Director
General of OIE, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to thank the Board and
Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, of
the World Animal Health Organisation
(OIE) for the initiative to organize this
Conference here in Paris. It is of great
importance that Veterinary education is in
the spotlights on a global level.

As World Veterinary Association/WVA;
so from the side of the profession, we are
very pleased to participate in this
Conference. Personally I am happy that so
many Deans or Directors of veterinary
faculties and schools; veterinary education
policymakers and veterinary professionals
from various disciplines and from all over
the world are here to participate. In my
name, the veterinary profession welcomes
you all very much.

In the announcement of this Conference
about appropriate veterinary education and
training OIE mentioned to have interest in
the effect on the quality and performance
of public and private components of
veterinary services and I fully agree for
this is important for the trade of animals
and food of animal origin. But for WVA is
important to have a high level of
veterinary education to enable
veterinarians in all duties to serve the
Society world-wide.

The programme of this Conference will
present you with many presentations from
academics, governmental and non-
governmental organisations and
institutions and a student.

I am happy that FAO and WHO cooperate
in this Conference for this makes the One
World – One Health concept, we believe
in, more visible. A little omission although
I will present the profession in my
presentation, is that we do not hear the
veterinarian in the field in his daily life.

Practitioners are the biggest part of our
profession. We have to realise that animal
disease control, monitoring and
surveillance start by the cooperation of
animal owners and the practitioners in
their daily work. These veterinarians need
a high level of education and training for
they start often immediately after
graduation with their responsible duty.
Veterinarians in organisational and
institutional duties get mostly additional
courses after graduation.

The WVA, as representing the whole
profession, has by defining the Global Day
One Competencies, indicated the level of
veterinary education. The faculties and
schools have their own responsibility to
make a curriculum to effect this purpose.
In a lot of schools the level is that of a
veterinary technician, but the profession
and I hope global animal health
organizations, cannot accept this level.
There should be a clear difference between
veterinarians and para-professionals
[veterinary technicians], who fulfil an
important but supportive role.

The profession has to control the level of
education by accreditation [AVMA and
RCVS] or by evaluation together with the
schools [EAEVE and FVE]. The
profession cannot be excluded: the butcher
cannot inspect his own meat. WVA cannot
accept control systems where the
profession is excluded and will present
that schools in its database of schools as
not approved by the profession.

At the end of all presentations,
recommendation will be presented and
hopefully adopted by all of you. But in a
few years we have to control, if the
adopted recommendations are executed. A
good momentum could be the Conference
in Veterinary Education in 2011 organized
by the Vet2011 Committee. This
Conference is for me a success when we
all together can meet the expectations of
the Society for new graduates. I wish you
a fruitful Conference!
The OIE global conference agrees on a minimum curriculum for all veterinarians worldwide

At its global conference ‘Evolving veterinary education for a safer world’ (12th – 14th October, Paris, France), the OIE, with the support of more than 400 Deans and Directors of veterinary training institutions and key national veterinary education policy makers, addressed inequalities and shortcomings in the veterinary curricula worldwide and proposed new policies for the improvement of initial and continuous veterinary education.

The Conference was held after evaluations carried out by the OIE in over 95 Member Countries – using the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services tool (PVS tool) – highlighted the considerable need for strengthening veterinary professional education with respect to the OIE’s international standards of quality applicable to any national animal health system.

“As demonstrated by our evaluations of national veterinary services over the last few years, the veterinary education curricula in many countries are failing to keep pace with those countries’ basic requirements in terms of the capacity of the public and private components of their Veterinary Services in the fields of animal disease surveillance and control. It is critically important that veterinary curricula worldwide include training modules in managing the early detection of infectious disease outbreaks, including zoonoses, and rapid response mechanisms to these events,” Dr Bernard Vallat explained at the Conference.

In order to prevent and control diseases on the entire planet, veterinarians must receive education and training that enables them to have a direct effect on the quality and performance of Veterinary Services. Veterinarians must acquire technical excellence, but as they are all involved in national animal health systems they also need a broad general education to give them a better grasp of the mechanisms of governance at both the national (legislation, chain of command, financial management, communication) and international level (knowledge of relevant global and regional organisations and of international standards).

Also, in view of the ever increasing threats that zoonoses represent it is of utmost importance that veterinarians receive appropriate training in this field and assume a leading role in developing control strategies of zoonoses in cooperation with all relevant sectors, especially the medical world.

“We reached a global consensus on what steps can be taken to convince certain countries awarding ‘third-rate’ veterinary diplomas to encourage them to modify their behaviour and ensure that these diplomas are delivered on the basis of effective high level know-how that meets societal needs,” Dr Tjeerd Jorna, President of the World Veterinary Association commented.

The Conference was an opportunity to:

- agree on a minimum curriculum for all veterinarians, whatever educational establishment in the world provides the initial training;
- design and recommend mechanisms to help to improve the content and quality of training;
- exchange views on priorities for the content of academic courses, the main purpose being to reach consensus in order to recommend an updated veterinary curriculum to the international community;
- ensure that future graduates are increasingly able to work in an international environment, applying international standards for infectious disease surveillance and control, veterinary public health, food safety and animal welfare;
- discuss the involvement of national veterinary statutory bodies in the harmonisation of recognition procedures for veterinary faculties, which would
Prof. Alan Kelly, Dean emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, announced that Dr. Frederick A. Murphy had been selected as the second recipient of the Penn Vet World Leadership Award during the OIE worldwide conference “Evolving veterinary education for a safer world” held in Paris on 12-14 October 2009.

“I am very thankful to The Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation for their vision and generosity, and also to the members of the jury who chose me among so many remarkable professionals. I very much value the incredible work veterinarians all around the world do and I think that prizes like the Penn Vet Award greatly contribute to stimulating the vision of our profession” Dr Murphy said.

The award is given annually to a veterinarian who has dramatically changed the practice and image of the profession and substantially influenced the lives and careers of others. Underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation, the award provides $100,000 in unrestricted funding to the recipient. The Foundation also underwrites the annual Penn Vet Student Inspiration Award recognizing two students for their potential to advance veterinary medicine.

“We could think of no better moment than the OIE world conference on veterinary education to recognize the value of an outstanding veterinarian, researcher and person such as Dr Murphy. Besides, it is the greatest honor for the OIE to be actively participating in this amazing venture initiated by the Hill Foundation,” Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General said.

Dr. Murphy is the James W. McLaughlin Professor in Residence, Department of Pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Dr. Murphy’s greatest impact on the future of the veterinary profession is his expertise in the field of infectious disease; in particular, Dr. Murphy has played a leadership role in viral pathogenesis and has articulated clearly the role of animal pathogens in new and emerging diseases.

His previous appointments include Dean and Professor of Virology at the University of California–Davis, director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and associate Dean of research at Colorado State University.
At its global conference ‘Evolving veterinary education for a safer world’ Professor Alan M. Kelly presented this paper on behalf of his co-authors, Robert Marshak, David Galligan and James Ferguson from the Center for Animal Health & Productivity at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine.

He said that in the next 40 years the global population will grow by 2.4 billion. This growth will be equivalent to adding the population of a city the size of Paris (2.3 million) every 2 weeks for the next 40 years. The population will become predominantly urban. Urbanization will have the most consequential effect on the structure of society in the 21st Century. This will impact on trade patterns, food supplies, patterns of disease transmission and environmental health.

There are estimates that 900 million people will live in cities in China by 2020. Professor Kelly asked “How do you provide for these metropolises ?”. “How do you feed all these people without wrecking the environment ?”.

In the next 40 years it is estimated the world will need an increase in food production of 100%. The FAO estimates:
- 20 % from added farm land
- 10 % from increased farming intensity
- 70% from new and existing technologies and innovation.

James T. Morris, Executive Director, U.N. World Food Programme said on March 15, 2007 that “Increased efficiency of production is critical. Hunger as the world’s No. 1 public health threat. It is responsible for killing more people than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.”

Josette Sheeran, Executive Director U.N. World Food Program, said in August, 2009 that “High food prices have pushed more than 1 billion people into hunger”. Food must be affordable for food security and political stability.”

Professor Kelly praised the Green Revolution attributed to the vision of Norman Borlaug (1960 - 1990). The abundance of food resulted from the increased intensity of production and was land sparing. The world is moving from 40 years of food abundance to an era of constrained food supplies. He asked “whether genetic engineering of crops could change the trajectory ?”

Asia has 60% of the world’s population but only 36% of the world’s water resources. The UN estimates that climate change will lead to a 20% rise in global water scarcity. The efficiency of water use and re-use in livestock and poultry production is essential. China has 20% of the world’s population but only 7% of the arable land.

Urban populations consume 2 to 3 times more animal protein compared to rural populations. This demand is driven by the development of an urban middle class. The consequence is an intensifying wildlife, grain production, livestock, human interface that veterinarians’ must address to preserve biodiversity.
Traditional food animal veterinary medicine is in decline. Economic conditions on the farm and new technologies will accelerate the rate of decline. The veterinary profession has failed to develop an infrastructure of animal care involving para-professionals and animal health care workers. Modern digital technologies with instant transmission of data including digital images make such systems feasible.

80% of the increase in animal protein production in South East Asia has come from intensive systems of production. This requires a different system of animal care.

Systems of animal production are inextricably linked with patterns of animal disease. Sub-clinical disease causes greater losses to production than clinical disease (JB Herrick 1990).

**Production medicine - Population medicine**
Veterinarians must understand animal productivity. Veterinarians act as consultants on management of entire farming operations. Farm records include nutrition, reproductive efficiency, housing, biosecurity, animal welfare, animal health economics, risk analysis, epidemiology, waste management and nutrient management.

Professor Kelly said that other issues that need consideration and management include:
- pollution of streams and rivers
- weak veterinary infrastructure (Livestock’s Long Shadow)
- nutrient management, regional planning
- efficiency of waste disposal, water re-use
- rational placement of facilities

He cited the example of the Danish organic waste bio-refinery.

**Recommendations**
Professor Kelly concluded that global health is a vast, complex field that involves every discipline on a university campus including veterinary medicine. There is a tremendous need for veterinarians to be engaged in global health.

- He said that innovation is critical and it will come from interdisciplinary collaborative projects.
- Students must be inspired to follow their dreams and explore the new horizons of global health across many disciplines. This involves every academic discipline and will require a change in the “silod” structure of American universities.
- The field is dominated by the medical profession and schools of public health. They do not understand why veterinary medicine is important.
- Veterinary medicine has to re-establish its social relevance with articles about the profession’s critical role in global health in the popular press.
- The veterinary profession should develop new, less expensive systems of animal care. It must develop an infrastructure of animal care involving para-professionals and animal health care.
- The veterinary profession should make better use of modern digital technologies with instant transmission of data including digital images.

**Increased efficiency of production**
The profession needs leaders with the skills and temperaments to guide governments, international agencies, and producers in formulating policies that ensure the food supply is:
- safe
- sustainable
- affordable
- secure.

The veterinary profession should create a virtual center of excellence in food animal medicine with inter-active, on-line courses in:
- production medicine
- paraprofessional education
- animal welfare
- water management
- nutrient management, etc

Courses should be available to veterinarians worldwide.

**Proceedings**

Publication of this set of 50 papers is expected by the end of November 2009.
World Rabies Day organised by the Veterinary Association of Zambia was observed by a walk, a National broadcast cast launch by the Minister of livestock and fisheries, and free rabies vaccinations at 5 vet clinics.

The walk took place on the 25th in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, Led by the Veterinary Association President, Dr Alfred Mwanza, from Manda hill, the most famous shopping complex to the University of Zambia Veterinary School which is about 4.5 km. It was attended by mainly veterinary students. Others were veterinary lecturers, private vets and government workers. The route taken is one of the busiest roads in Lusaka so as to reach out to many people. Leaflets about rabies prevention and control were distributed along the way to motorists and people on public buses. The march was sponsored by zam-beef, vet-serve clinic, vetali vet and National milling companies.

The Minister of livestock and fisheries launched the event by giving a speech on national television, which is broadcast in the 9 provinces of Zambia.

Free rabies vaccinations were carried out on the Monday 28th at 5 different veterinary clinics. The rabies vaccines were procured by the Veterinary Association. The clinics targeted were those based in high density areas including the University Vet clinic which has two high density areas nearby. There was an overwhelming response as a lot of people, especially children turned up with their pets as early as 07:00 hrs on the day. About 600 dogs were vaccinated. The pictures were taken from the university of Zambia veterinary clinic. We hope to have a larger campaign next year as this year was the first done under World Rabies Day.
The Third African Veterinary Association Congress

Yaoundé, Cameroun 28th - 30th Sep 2009.

The Role of the Veterinarian in Sustainable Development and Environment Protection

Most African countries attended the African Veterinary Association (AVA) Congress. The Minister of livestock, fisheries and animal industries (Dr. Aboubaker Sarki) attended the official opening. Two plenary sessions covered lectures on Rabies and Avian Influenza. There were many scientific papers covering all aspects of veterinary profession in Cameroon and Africa, beside reports of AVA and other organizations activities.

Dr. T. Jorna, WVA President, gave a comprehensive presentation, including WVA history, messages, goals, activities and future plans.

“Today the 28th of September the Opening of the 3rd African Veterinary Congress in Yaoundé in Cameroun is on a special day too. I would like to commemorate today is World Rabies Day. On the date of the day of Louis Pasteur's death we pay attention to Rabies in the world. Every year at least 55,000 people die from rabies and most of them are children under the age of 15. This is absolutely unnecessary for rabies is 100% preventable. Therefore in 2007 the Alliance for Rabies Control started World rabies Day with the objective to raise awareness and to enhance prevention and control of rabies. Rabies is a problem in Asia and Africa, but also it can be seen in Moscow and New York city. We as profession, united in WVA, have to support the elimination of canine rabies, to prevent human rabies and to control wildlife rabies. Good examples of success can be seen in Mexico and the Baltic states in Europe.

I have a message for prevention is sometimes depending on culture [people and authorities deny rabies as a zoonotic disease] and sometimes it is depending of the competition between Ministries [Ministry of Health and Ministry of Livestock / Agriculture / Rural Affairs]. I would like to stress to the governmental authorities that the prevention in animals is much cheaper than the post-exposure treatment in humans. In my opinion, the competition between Ministries in the fight against Rabies control is inhumane. Working together makes rabies history. That is what WVA wants too.”

The AVA general assembly was presided over by Dr. Khalid Alhshiri and was attended by 14 African representatives. The president reported the AVA activities and constraints. At the end of the meeting the new AVA officers were elected as follows:

Dr. Faouzi Kechrid (Tunisia) President.
Dr Omer Tonkara (Mali) General Secretary
Dr. Yassir Yousif Alian (Sudan) Treasurer

Five African regions were adopted to form regional veterinary associations (north, east, west and central) under the umbrella of the African Veterinary Federation. The representatives of these regions were elected as 5 Vice-Presidents, and to start forming these associations in consultation with the respective countries in the region.

Report from Dr. Yassir Alian (Sudan)
WVA councilor for Africa

World Rabies Day in the Sudan

Professor Hashim M. Elhadi, the Sudan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) President reported that the SVMA alerted the Sudanese people, via the written media, and TV programmes on the dangers of Rabies. They encouraged the police authorities to kill stray dogs, beside the vaccination of dogs in government and private clinics.

Disclaimer

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Dr Anthony Erasmus, Chairman of the World Veterinary Congress 2011, met with the WVA Council in Tokyo to inform the Council of the progress with planning. (Photograph by Mr. Bob Stevenson)
Conferences and Congresses

2009

Joint International Educational Symposium on Animal Welfare
November 9th - 11th at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. The agenda for the symposium, “Swimming with the Tide: Animal Welfare in Veterinary Medical Education and Research,” is available at www.avma.org/awsymposium by clicking on the “Agenda” link.

World Response Conference on Global Outbreak (H5N1 + H1N1 Flu)
November 12th - 13th, 2009

World Summit on Food Security
16th – 18th November

First Joint Symposium of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and the Society of Veterinary Tropical Medicine
18th – 22nd November
Veterinary Tropical Medicine
Washington, DC, USA
Contact: info@astmh.org
www.astmh.org

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) International Symposium and Workshop Integrating Science and Management
For further information, please visit the symposium Website at: http://www.FMD2010.com.au/

2011

2011 Veterinary World Cup of Cricket
7th - 11th February, 2011, Palmerston North, New Zealand.
Contact Dave West at: D.M.West@massey.ac.nz.

Vet 2011
2011 will be the 250th anniversary of veterinary education, marking the world’s first veterinary school in Lyon, France. For more information please contact: staff@vet2011.org or www.2011vet.org

30th World Veterinary Congress
Cape Town 2011
More information at: www.worldvetcongress2011.com

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